



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

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Week Ending: August 7, 2005
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Fire Burned Out of Control Grain Harvest in Full Swing

Field Crop

The hot, dry conditions experienced in many areas kept grain harvest in full swing. Winter and spring cereal harvest wound down in Adams, Lincoln, and Whitman Counties with good quality and yield. Potato vines were removed in preparation for harvest. Lentils were swathed. Extremely high fire danger threatened many areas due to hot, dry weather. Farm houses and wheat grain in Columbia, Garfield, and Asotin Counties were destroyed as fire burned out of control south of Pomeroy over the weekend.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 4% very poor, 22% poor, 26% fair, and 48% good. Some livestock were destroyed due to wild fire over the weekend. Second alfalfa cutting neared completion.

Fruits and Vegetables

Cherry harvest was complete in Grant County, with below normal yields reported. Blueberry harvest wound down. Sweet corn harvest continued. Grays Harbor daffodil growers finished digging and are in the process of sorting bulbs. Raspberry harvest finished in Thurston County.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.9
Last Week	7.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	25	34	41	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	24	43	33	0
Subsoil	25	45	30	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	12	49	39	0
Irrigation Water	12	9	79	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	1	5	94	0
Hay & Roughage	3	11	80	6

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2004	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	43	22	39	29
Winter Wheat Harvested	58	40	52	52
Barley Harvested	36	22	41	26
Potatoes Harvested	46	29	20	20
Corn Silage Harvested	12	10	6	2
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	20	10	4	1
Dry Peas Harvested	73	57	63	34
Alfalfa Hay 2 nd Cutting	92	88	93	96
Alfalfa Hay 3 rd Cutting	40	17	51	36

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	10	26	47	16
Winter Wheat Irrigated	1	6	18	55	20
Spring Wheat Dryland	8	20	37	32	3
Spring Wheat Irrigated	6	10	17	55	12
Barley Dryland	13	17	33	34	3
Barley Irrigated	8	19	30	36	7
Potatoes	0	1	16	51	32
Corn	0	2	15	63	20
Dry Edible Beans	3	8	35	50	4

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

- Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Another week of very warm temperatures, with daytime highs reaching the high 80's and no rainfall, resulted in drought conditions throughout the county. The weather was ideal for the growth of both sweet corn and silage corn where irrigation was available. Pumpkin growers reported that even though plants wilt in the high temperatures, they have less disease problems by not irrigating. Dairymen were pumping out lagoons and applying liquid manure and solids to forage fields. Christmas tree growers continued top work on Noble fir and shearing Grand fir. Greenhouse tomato growers reported fruit was ripening rapidly due to the warm temperatures. Home gardeners feasted on produce from their gardens including onions, beets, carrots, potatoes, and tomatoes. Daffodil growers finished digging and were in the process of sorting bulbs.

Mason: Hot weather early in the week changed to moderate toward the end of the week. Marine air in the morning kept the outside temperature pleasant for work. Farmers were still irrigating. Because of earlier wet weather and the rotation pattern, pastures were doing well, and producers were hoping pastures hold out until September. Rain in the next few weeks will set pastures up for fall grazing. Hay was plentiful as some farmers had leftover inventory from last year. For the first time ever, free hay was offered by producers that needed to clear haylofts for their new crop. The hay crop was excellent this year.

Pierce: The hay in the field was shriveled and almost dried up due to the very dry conditions. This was no surprise as this happens every year to some extent.

San Juan: The weather was warm and dry. Haying was complete. Pastures were going into summer dormancy.

Farmer's Markets were at their peak. A little rain wouldn't hurt.

Skagit: Blueberries were in the final stages of harvest. Potato vines were removed in preparation for harvest. Various vegetable seed crops were being harvested.

Snohomish/King: Last week was another week without rain. Farmers were spreading manure and making hay as quickly as they could. Blueberry harvest continued. Apples were sizing up. There was lots of scab in unsprayed orchards on susceptible varieties. Pastures were drying out, so farms with irrigation used it. The Department of Ecology was keeping a close eye on river levels and farmers who use the water. The hot weather encouraged corn growth.

Thurston: Very warm temperatures throughout the week with no rainfall resulted in drought conditions throughout the county. Fire danger remained high. Blueberry growers continued to report good yields with nearly ideal harvest conditions. Most berries were mechanically harvested at night for maximum fruit quality. Turfgrass growers have been hard pressed to keep up with irrigation requirements. Livestock producers continued making square bale hay. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir and began shearing Douglas fir. Raspberry harvest was finished, and growers reported average yields. Home gardeners were harvesting their first ripe tomatoes.

Thurston (2nd Report): The weather was very hot and dry.

Whatcom: Potato growers began the de-vining process. Most of the field corn in the county was silking. Many grass growers were baling hay. A single raspberry harvester was observed making his final pass of the season. Blueberry harvest was winding down.

Central

Franklin: Wheat yields were average to above average. Alfalfa harvest was good due to no precipitation during harvest.

Grant: Sweet corn harvest continued in the southern part of the county. Cherry harvest was complete, with below normal yields reported. The second cutting of alfalfa and timothy hay was complete, with reports of some rain damage in parts of the county. Wheat harvest continued, with above average yields being obtained in the dryland portions of the county.

Klickitat: Temperatures were in the 90's and 100 plus degrees throughout the week. There has been no rain for weeks and none expected anytime soon. Sporadic small wild fires were reported throughout the county.

Lincoln: Winter wheat harvest was complete in the southern end of the county but was just beginning in the northeast

corner of the county. Yields have been very good and above average.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Wheat harvesting was going good.

Lincoln (3rd Report): Conditions were hot and dry, and the wheat harvest continued to progress for most of the county. Wheat harvest in the northern part of the county should begin soon. Yields have been mostly good for winter wheat. Fire danger has been high, as evidenced by a significant range and brush fire in the central section of the county.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 5 degrees below normal to 8 degrees above normal with no precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

Eastern

Adams: Winter and spring cereal harvest wound down, with reports of above average yields with mostly number one and number two quality grain. With harvest nearly complete, farmers turned their attention to winter wheat seeding. Moisture conditions remained in mostly short and adequate supply, but most growers reported enough moisture to get winter wheat established.

Asotin/Garfield: Wildfire swept through the southern portion of Garfield County over the weekend burning over 35,000 acres in Columbia, Garfield, and Asotin Counties destroying 35 homes and cabins. Harvest progressed rapidly with the hot, dry weather.

Ferry/Okanogan: Winter wheat harvest was well underway. Yields appeared to be good. The second cutting of alfalfa hay was nearly complete. Pastures were holding up pretty good. There were still problems with livestock water supplies in some locations. Producers took advantage of the Emergency Conservation Program for spring and well developments for livestock water.

Ferry: The weather was hot and dry. The moisture from the surface soil was quickly evaporating. Fire danger was increasing.

Garfield: Most of southern Columbia, Garfield, and Asotin Counties have burned over the past two days. Livestock, farm homes, and grain (mostly wheat) were destroyed as the fire continued to burn out of control into the wilderness south of Pomeroy as of Sunday night. Ironically, some higher rainfall areas have yet to be cut due to too green conditions. Yields were average in good moisture areas of the county.

Pend Oreille: Livestock feeding was done in the early mornings and late evenings due to the heat wave. Non-irrigated pastures and rangeland were beginning to dry up. Livestock completed shedding their winter coats and are now in full summer coats. Foul were laying in the early morning and evening and seeking shade during the afternoon. Egg production seems to be up so far. Barley was very close to harvest and may begin next week. Some hay farmers were still cutting timothy and grass hay.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Another week of warm weather helped hasten maturity of crops. The hot weather actually pushed growth too fast and was affecting the quality of grain that was being harvested. Wheat harvest began across the county. Grass harvest wound down for all but the large growers.

Stevens: A field turf fire required strenuous efforts to completely extinguish it. Trenching revealed that peat underneath was still moist and the fire had not reached it. The fire began with hay on a mechanical bale wagon igniting from an electrical short. It reignited three times over a period of seven days.

Stevens (2nd Report): Hot, dry weather kept grain harvest in full swing. Yields were generally above average. Grain hay and the second cutting of alfalfa crops continued to be baled. A few producers were concerned about the availability of water for livestock.

Walla Walla: Hot, dry conditions continued. Area rangeland was rapidly drying out. Fire danger is extremely high. There were numerous wheat fires and also a very large timber fire in the Blue mountains. Yields reported were across the board; some very good yields (primarily summer fallow rotation wheat), some average yields, and some very poor yields.

Whitman: Harvest was coming to a close in the western end of the county, with several operations reporting completed or close to completed for the year. Spring crop yields were disappointing, but winter wheat appeared to have yielded average to above average in many areas. In the central part of the county harvest began to pick up steam, with many operations not cutting winter wheat or peas. The eastern areas of the county were a little slower getting started. Lentils were being swathed. Southeastern areas were going strong with activity moving inland off the canyon breaks. Weather held up with some passing showers early in the week that were not enough to stop activity for any length of time.

Weekly Weather Statistics

August 8, 2005

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	47	81	65	3	107	16	37	9	0.31	0.03	1	37.72	2.57	107	156
Everett	52	82	66	2	110	12	40	12	0.05	-0.23	1	26.43	-9.02	75	153
Hoquiam	47	77	61	0	80	3	12	-2	0.04	-0.22	1	55.77	-10.79	84	184
Kelso	48	93	69	5	134	29	64	29	0.00	-0.25	0	28.12	-16.90	62	123
Olympia	43	90	66	3	115	17	45	15	0.00	-0.21	0	39.23	-10.48	79	154
Sea-Tac	54	87	68	3	129	17	59	16	0.00	-0.20	0	31.46	-4.92	86	135
Shelton	44	92	66	0	114	2	44	2	0.05	-0.16	1	53.69	-10.44	84	151
Tacoma	45	90	67	2	117	12	47	7	0.00	-0.21	0	26.99	-11.69	70	122
Vancouver	51	95	71	6	150	41	80	38	0.00	-0.21	0	29.18	-11.26	72	148
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	47	101	76	8	186	53	116	53	0.00	-0.07	0	6.84	-1.80	79	81
Stampede Pass	46	86	65	9	109	60	43	35	0.00	-0.34	0	60.79	-18.94	76	172
Wenatchee	57	98	78	4	201	31	131	33	0.00	-0.07	0	5.22	-2.75	65	60
Yakima AP	45	100	73	3	163	18	93	18	0.00	-0.07	0	5.70	-1.96	74	75
NORTHEAST															
Colville	44	99	72	5	156	33	86	30	0.00	-0.21	0	21.52	1.24	106	105
Deer Park	40	96	68	-3	127	-13	57	-13	0.00	-0.14	0	20.76	2.94	116	118
Spokane AP	53	96	74	4	171	31	101	31	0.00	-0.14	0	14.32	-1.63	90	98
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	60	98	79	4	206	24	136	24	0.00	-0.07	0	6.05	-1.00	86	60
Moses Lake	53	99	76	0	183	1	113	1	0.00	-0.07	0	6.25	-0.80	89	58
Quincy	53	94	76	5	184	30	114	30	0.00	-0.07	0	5.52	-1.93	74	52
Ritzville	50	98	74	4	167	27	97	27	0.00	-0.07	0	9.13	-1.86	83	68
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	59	104	81	3	218	15	148	15	0.00	-0.07	0	3.37	-2.71	55	44
Pasco	48	102	75	0	176	-3	106	-2	0.00	-0.07	0	5.32	-1.87	74	60
Pullman	41	97	71	5	148	29	78	29	0.00	-0.19	0	5.95	-14.48	29	67
Whitman Miss.	42	102	75	4	176	23	106	22	0.00	-0.14	0	10.16	-3.06	77	98
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A AP	46	95	72	2	157	10	87	10	0.00	-0.25	0	11.55	-13.42	46	84
Lewiston ID	59	104	82	7	222	45	152	47	0.02	-0.12	1	11.49	-0.31	97	93

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2004

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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